(c) whether such undesired persons have also been nabbed at certain places; and

(d) if so, the details of the persons nabbed during last one year?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the State Governments are empowered to appoint Licencing/Registering Authorities to issue the Driving Licences and Registration Certificates for motor vehicles. The Central Government has no role in this regard as the matter comes totally under the purview of the State Governments. As and when any complaint in the matter is received, the same is sent to the concerned State Government for necessary action.

Universal safety on National Highways

3323. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to adopt a new scheme for providing universal safety on National Highways, to be funded from tolls and cess on petrol and diesel etc.;

(b) if so, what are the safety measures envisaged under the scheme; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. Committee on Infrastructure (COI) has endorsed a proposal of the Ministry for setting up a dedicated Safety Fund into which one per cent of the cess revenues allocated for National Highways would be earmarked.

(b) and (c) Detailed proposals are under consideration and it would be too early to indicate the details of the scheme and its implementation.

Accidents due to overloading of trucks

†3324. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overloading of trucks more than their capacity leads to accidents due to imbalance;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government propose to formulate any new norms to check such fatal overloading of trucks in view of the above fact; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The maximum permissible Gross Vehicle Weights (GVWs) for various categories of vehicles have been fixed and notified by Gazette Notification on 18.10.1996 and 26.5.2000 under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. This has been done keeping in view the design parameters and load-bearing capacity of the roads. There are specific provisions in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 which prohibit plying of overloaded vehicles on roads. Enforcement of these provisions vests with the State Governments. No new norms/provisions are considered necessary at this stage.

Proposals under CRF by Orissa

†3325. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the proposals sent by Orissa under the Central Road Fund (C.R.F.) during the last three years alongwith the number of proposals that were cleared and the amount released;

(b) whether it is a fact that the utilization certificates for the amount released have been submitted to Government; and

(c) if so, by when the remaining amount would be released?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) During the last three years, 158 proposals were received from the Government of Orissa under the Central Road Fund (CRF) scheme. During this period, 10 proposals have been cleared and funds to the tune of Rs. 77.47 crore have been released.

During the current year, 11 proposals have been cleared. 123 proposals have been returned during the last three years due to limitation of Bank of Sanction as per the guidelines on CRF.

(b) and (c) Overall utilization certificate, as per the CRF guidelines, amounting to Rs. 91.18 crore has been submitted by the Government of Orissa against a total release of Rs. 100.88 crore. Further, a utilization

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.